

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10

ACDA-05 OMB-01 /072 W

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O P 191142Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9424

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3083

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS CB

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 19, THE FIFTIETH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 2976

1. SUMMARY: FANK CONTINUED TO BUILD UP FORCES AT ITS SOUTHERN-MOST BASE ON THE MEKONG. RELIEF FORCES ARE 12KM FROM MAUNG RUSSEI SOUTH OF BATTAMBANG WHERE FANK POCKETS ARE STILL HOLDING OUT. THE KC BURNED PART OF A REFUGEE CAMPT EAST OF KOMPONG SPEU. THIRTEEN ROCKETS KILLED THREE PEOPLE AT POCHENTONG; NINE ROUNDES KILLED ONE PERSON AT PREK PHNOU. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOURTH BRIGADE'S 2ND BATTALION ITS AND HEADQUARTERS MOVED TO FANK'S BASE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG JUST NORTH OF PEAM REANG ISLAND. FIVE FRIENDLY BATTALIONS ARE NOW AT THE BASE WHICH IS THE GKR'S SOUTHERNMOST POSITION ON THE MEKONG; TWO MORE BATTALIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO MOVE IN TONGHT. ONE ISLAND-BASED 105MM HOWITZER COVERS THE POSITION AND TROOPERS ARE CLEARING A DROP ZONE TO ENSURE RESUPPLY IF ENEMY FIRE MAKES NAVAL RESUPPLY TOO RISKY. FURTHER NORTH AT NEAK LUONG THE KC

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CUT OFF A BATTALION ON THE TOWN'S EASTERN PERIMETER. OPERATIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO RESTORE THE CUT.

3. FANK C-IN-C SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ TOOK THE COMMANDER OF THE NAVY AND THE COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE DOWN TO NEAK LUONG TO ENCOURAGE TROOPS IN THE MEKONG OPERATION. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR JOINT ACTION BY ALL THE SERVICES.

4. A RELIEF COLUMN FROM BATTAMBANG IS 12KM NORTH OF MAUNG RUSSEI WHERE TWO FANK COMPANY-SIZED POSITIONS ARE STILL HOLDING OUT. ANOTHER COLUMN COMING FROM PURSAT IS ABOUT 25KM SOUTH OF MAUNG.

5. KOMPONG SPEU FORCES REOPENED ROUTE 4 TO PHNOM PENH. THE KC ATTACKED A REFUGEE CAMP THREE KMS. EAST OF KOMPONG SPEU. THEY BURNED EIGHT HOUSES, KILLED A WOMAN AND INJURED THREE OTHERS.

6. SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH SECOND DIVISION TROOPS RE-TOOK GROUND LOST EARLIER IN THE WEEK, KILLING 53 KC, TAKING ONE PRISONER AND SEIZING A NUMBER OF WEAPONS. NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL, 38TH BRIGADE ELEMENTS BROKE OFF THEIR EFFORT TO PUSH THROUGH TO THE SEVENTH DIVISION'S ISOLATED 45TH BRIGADE AT PHNOM BASSET AND WHEELED EAST, ALONG THE ACCESS ROAD FROM ROUTE 5. THE 38TH KILLED 30 KC AND CAPTURED A NUMBER OF WEAPONS. THE NEARBY 5TH BRIGADE INTERCEPTED KC INFILTRATORS TRYING TO GET INTO PREK PHNOM WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS.

7. THIRTEEN ROCKETS HIT AT POCHENTONG KILLING THREE PEOPLE AND WOUNDING 9. SOME OF THE ROUNDS LANDED ON THE AIRPORT WITH NO DAMAGE REPORTED. NINE ROCKETS LANDED AT PREK PHNOM KILLING ONE AND INJURING ONE. DEAN

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